

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An ink comprising: a dye; and water and/or a water-miscible organic solvent,

wherein the dye comprises a dye compound having at least one heterocyclic structure, and the ink further comprises, as an additive, at least one compound capable of chemically interacting with the dye compound, and wherein λ_{max} of a visible-range absorption spectrum of a diluted aqueous solution is shifted by at least 5 nm as compared with that in an absence of the additive, the diluted aqueous solution being a mixture of the additive and a heterocyclic structure-having dye mixed in a molar ratio of 1/1 and having a concentration of at most 1 mmol/liter.

2. (original): The ink according to claim 1, wherein the dye compound has two hetero-aromatic rings bonded to each other via an azo bond.

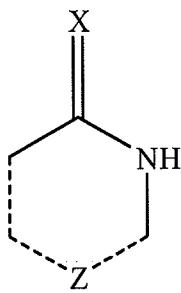
3. (original): The ink according to claim 1, wherein the dye compound has a metal-chelated hetero-aromatic ring structure.

4. (previously presented): The ink according to claim 1, wherein the additive is a hydrogen-bonding compound.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented): The ink according to claim 1, wherein the additive has a cyclic amide structure and the dye compound has a nitrogen-containing 6-membered heteroaromatic ring.

7. (previously presented): The ink according to claim 1, wherein the additive is a compound having a partial structure represented by the following formula (A):



(A)

wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or N-R (R represents a hydrogen atom, or any of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group); Z represents an atomic group capable of forming a 5- to 8- membered ring.

8. (previously presented): An ink set containing the ink according to claim 1.

9. (previously presented): An inkjet recording method, which comprises recording an image by using the ink according to claim 1 with an inkjet printer.

10. (currently amended): The ink set comprising:

at least one yellow ink, the yellow ink comprising an aqueous medium and ~~an~~ yellow dye dispersed or dissolved in the aqueous medium, and the yellow dye having:

an oxidation potential of more positive than 1.0 V (vs. SCE); λ_{\max} within a range of from 390 nm to 470 nm; and an absorbance ratio of $I(\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm})/I(\lambda_{\max})$ of at most 0.4, wherein $I(\lambda_{\max})$ is an absorbance of λ_{\max} , and $I(\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm})$ is an absorbance of $\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm}$; ~~and~~

black ink comprising at least one of the yellow dye; and

wherein an accelerated fading rate of the yellow ink is smaller than that of the black ink
and wherein the accelerated fading rate constant is determined as the following method: an ink to
be analyzed is printed on a reflection medium, and a reflection density (D_B) thereof is measured
through a status A filter; one point of a sample having the reflection density (D_B) of from 0.90 to
1.10 in a yellow region is defined as an initial density of the ink, and the printed sample is
forcedly faded by using an ozone fading tester where 5 ppm ozone is generated all time; a period
of time in which the reflection density of the faded sample is reduced to 80 % of the initial
density of the original sample is counted, and the accelerated fading rate constant of the ink is
derived from the above method.

11. (original): The ink set according to claim 10, wherein the absorbance ratio of $I(\lambda_{\max} + 70 \text{ nm})/I(\lambda_{\max})$ of the yellow dye is at most 0.2.

12. (previously presented): The ink set according to claim 10, wherein the yellow dye is a compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein A and B each independently represents an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group, n is 1 or 2; and L represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent bonding to A or B at any desired position.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented): The ink set according to claim 10, wherein a concentration of a water-soluble organic solvent in the yellow ink is lower than that in the black ink.

15. (previously presented): The ink set according to claim 10, wherein a total solvent concentration in the yellow ink is lower than that in the black ink, and the total solvent concentration being determined by summing up concentrations of at least any two solvents selected from a glycol-type organic solvent, a glycol alkyl ether-type organic solvent and an amide-type organic solvent.

16. (currently amended): An inkjet color recording method, comprising recording an image on an image-receiving material having an image-receiving layer on a support by using an ink composition, the ink composition containing at least one of yellow azo die and black azo dye and a water-miscible organic solvent, wherein an absolute value of an image density change at a

point where a reflection density at a λ_{\max} region of the recorded image is 1.5, is at most 20 %;

and

wherein said yellow dye is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein A and B each independently represents an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group; L represents a hydrogen atom, a chemical bond or a divalent linking group; n is 2; and L is a chemical bond or a divalent linking group, and one of A and B is a monovalent heterocyclic group and other one is a divalent heterocyclic group; and two A's may be the same or different, and two B's may be the same or different.

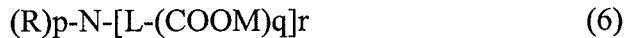
17. (original): The inkjet color recording method according to claim 16, wherein the image having a reflection density of 1.5 at a λ_{\max} region thereof is printed, and the density change is represented by the following formula in which Da indicates an initial density of an image area, and Db indicates a density thereof after left in an atmosphere of 80°C and 15 % RH for 7 days:

$$\text{Density Change (\%)} = (Db - Da)/Da \times 100.$$

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): The inkjet color recording method according to claim 16, wherein the ink composition further contains a surfactant and the surfactant is a betaine-type surfactant.

20. (original): The inkjet color recording method according to claim 19, wherein the betaine-type surfactant is represented by the following formula (6):



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a heterocyclic group; L represents a divalent linking group; M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an ammonium group, a protonated organic amine or nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, or a quaternary ammonium ion group, and when it is a counter ion to the ammonium ion with the N atom in the formula, then it is a group not existing as a cation; q indicates an integer of 1 or more; r indicates an integer of from 1 to 4; p indicates an integer of from 0 to 4; p+r is 3 or 4; when p+r is 4, then the N atom in the formula is a protonated ammonium atom (=N+=); when q is 2 or more, then COOM's may be the same or different; when r is 2 or more, then (L-(COOM)q)'s may be the same or different; when p is 2 or more, then R's may be the same or different.

21. (previously presented): The inkjet color recording method according to claim 16, wherein the ink composition contains as the water-miscible organic solvent at least one of triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, tripropylene glycol monomethyl ether, and dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether.

22. (currently amended): The inkjet color recording method according to claim 16, wherein the dye has an oxidation potential of more positive than 1.0V (vs SCE).

23. (currently amended): The inkjet color recording method according to claim 16, wherein the image-receiving layer contains a white ~~an~~ inorganic pigment particle.